

Aged & Community Services Australia
2nd National Community Care Conference Sydney
Community Care - Magic and Myths- the reality and the potential



**Aged & Community
Services • Australia**

MEDIA RELEASE

Do not use before 14 May 2008

ATTENTION:	Indigenous
WHERE:	Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour
WHEN:	Wednesday 14-Friday 16 May, 2008

Community Care Conference plans to enable Indigenous elders to remain and receive quality care at home.

More funding and staffing, and simpler and more streamlined culturally appropriate care, are needed to enable Indigenous elders and those with disabilities - and their families and carers- to remain at home, according to Greg Mundy, CEO of Aged and Community Services Australia (ACSA) which is holding the second national community care conference in Sydney, from 14-16 May.

“Community care is the backbone of Australia’s system of care for older people, with up to one million people each year receiving assistance which helps them to remain living in their own homes and communities. Many Indigenous elders would prefer this option or would like more care than is currently available or affordable,” Greg Mundy said.

“Being cared for at home is the clearly expressed preference of the vast majority of Indigenous elders. With more resources, community care could do much more to improve their independence and well-being.”

ACSA has called for a comprehensive Indigenous policy which incorporates HACC and other community care programmes, a growth strategy for other services funded outside the Act and clarification on the availability of capital for indigenous services. It also wants the Remote and Indigenous Service Support (RISS) initiative to provide flexible service support for all indigenous services.

He urged the new Federal Government to get on with completing and implementing the community care reform process, which has now been underway for two years. Federal and State and Territory Governments also need to substantially boost resources, improve linkages between aged care, health, mental health and disability services.”

“There are shortfalls in service provision throughout Australia, not least in rural and remote areas, for people from culturally and linguistically diverse and Indigenous backgrounds. These shortfalls will only get worse with the ageing of Australia's population.”

“The critical role of unpaid carers must also be assisted in community care development policy.”

An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island workshop at the conference will hear from Sharon Davies from NT’s Frontier Services on providing indigenous community care services; Rhonda Murphy and Kerry Stopher from WA on the ‘Getting Services Right’ indigenous disability information and resource package; and Damien Conley from Qld’s Blue Care on how they have increased indigenous employment from one worker in 2007 to 100 now and by 2010 another 150 to reach their target of 3.5% of the workforce- the same proportion as in the Qld population.

CONTACT: Greg Mundy for further comment 0416 203 065 :Megan Stoyles for other interviews, speaker details: 0408 147 829. Full program including speakers & topics at www.agedcare.org.au